

THE PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES

«Because they are under the auspices of the Pope and of the College of Bishops, these Societies, also within the boundaries of the particular Churches, rightly have “the first place... since they are the means by which Catholics from their very infancy are imbued with a genuinely universal and missionary spirit; they are also the means which ensure an effective collection of resources for the good of all the missions, in accordance with the needs of each one (AG 38)».³⁷

The Pontifical Mission Societies

Art. 1. The Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) are:

- the Pontifical Mission Society for the Propagation of the Faith (PSPF);
- the Pontifical Mission Society of Saint Meter Apostle (SPA);
 - the pontifical Mission Society of Holy Childhood or Missionary Children (HC);
 - the Pontifical Missionary Union (PMU).

Although established at different times, each through the initiatives of its founder or foundress, and having developed as distinct and autonomous entities, the four Societies now constitute a single institution, dependent on the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.³⁸ In fact although their specific and distinct natures are advantageous for the development of each Society, it is nevertheless necessary to have one single institution for worldwide missionary cooperation, within the context of the activities carried out by the CEP.³⁹

Art. 2. «Each Society has a right to a certain autonomy, that is recognised by the competent authority and indicated in the Statute».⁴⁰ The PMS structures are central, national and diocesan.

Art. 3. From the outset, lay people have played an essential role in the activities and leadership of the PMS. Cooperation in the universal mission of the Church is a right and the duty of all the baptised.⁴¹ All members of the People of God, «whether as individuals or as associations»,⁴² are called to participate in this mission.⁴³

Art. 4. The four PMS share as their primary and principal aim the promotion of the spirit of the universal mission within the People of God, so that its missionary witness may be expressed through spiritual and material cooperation in the work of evangelization.

Art. 5. The PMS, born of particular charismatic initiatives, lay, priestly and episcopal, have developed with the support of the Holy See, which has subsequently transformed them into *Pontifical* organizations, with the aim of ensuring their greater effectiveness and universal character.⁴⁴

The four Societies

The Pontifical Mission Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Art. 6. The Society for the Propagation of the Faith conscious that evangelization is above all the action of the Holy Spirit, encourages the faithful to give first place to prayer and a spirit of sacrifice for mission.⁴⁵ The following are its objectives:

- a) to form the People of God so that it becomes aware of its worldwide missionary vocation;⁴⁶
- b) to inform Christians about the life and needs of the Churches in mission territories, through the exchange of news, sharing of spiritual values, the witness of solidarity in times of trial, and moral and material support in adversity;⁴⁷
- c) to increase spiritual and material assistance between particular Churches, with particular attention to the exchange of apostolic personnel with a view to the evangelization of the whole world;⁴⁸
- d) to promote missionary vocations *ad gentes*, especially those which are life-long;⁴⁹
- e) to promote education for justice, especially of young people, through information and knowledge about the social doctrine of the Church; to encourage them to help, and work towards increasing missionary awareness leading them to offer themselves for mission;⁵⁰ towards this end the Society operates a “missionary youth service”;
- f) to promote economic solidarity by appealing to the generosity of Christians throughout the whole world and developing a social justice assistance programme which will regularly satisfy the fundamental needs of all the Churches in mission territories.⁵¹

Art. 7. The Society carries out its activity throughout the whole year, but with greater intensity during the month of October. This month must be regarded in all countries as the Month of Universal Mission. The penultimate Sunday, proclaimed as *World Mission Day* is the high point of the month. This day is celebrated in all the particular Churches as the

*feast of catholicity and universal solidarity.*⁵² On this day Christians throughout the world become aware of their common responsibility for the evangelization of the world.⁵³

Art. 8. So that the month of October may provide Christians with the opportunity to give a universal dimension to their missionary cooperation, and «in view of intensifying the missionary spirit among the Christian people, prayers and daily sacrifices are to be encouraged so that World Mission Day should become, as it were, the spontaneous _expression of that spirit (AG 36). Bishops are invited to ask those responsible for Catholic organizations and the faithful to renounce any other collection of a particular nature during that period . Bishops and Episcopal Conferences shall prepare various invocations for the missions and include them in the Prayers of the faithful». ⁵⁴ They should also ensure that offerings given on *World Mission Day* are used exclusively for the objectives of the Universal Solidarity Fund (cf. Art. 10) and encourage their priests and laity in that spirit.

Art. 9. In order to ensure the full development of the Society, those responsible will seek the support of numerous men and women co-workers, in particular through associations and parish movements or from other organizations, and provide them with the necessary formation. By its nature, PSPF, in common with all the Societies, calls for collaboration of all; its members should also be promoters of the universal missionary spirit in their own environment. Those responsible for the Society, bearing in mind the local ecclesial reality, must judge whether it is appropriate, in line with tradition, to create an Association composed of associated members.

Art. 10. All the offerings collected by the Society constitute the Universal Solidarity Fund of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

The Pontifical Mission Society of Saint Peter Apostle

Art. 11. The Society of Saint Peter Apostle was founded to pursue the following objectives:

a) to use spiritual means, especially prayer and sacrifice to beg «the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest»;⁵⁵

b) to make Christians aware of the need for growth in the number of vocations and the importance of formation of local Clergy in the Churches in the mission territories, so that subsequently they may be sent to collaborate in other sister Churches;⁵⁶

c) to contribute towards the growth of clergy in Churches in mission territories, using also the funds obtained by the establishment of scholarships, payment of pensions, fees and other donations, to enable the building and development of numerous major, propaedeutic and minor seminaries, both on a diocesan and inter-diocesan level;

d) to assist in the formation of male and female candidates for consecrated life, in the Churches of mission territories.

Art. 12. All the monies collected by the Society constitute the Universal Solidarity Fund of the Society of Saint Peter Apostle.

The Pontifical Mission Society of Holy Childhood or Missionary Children

Art. 13. The Society provides assistance to particular Churches with the following objectives:

a) to assist educators to awaken and gradually develop in both children and adolescents a worldwide missionary consciousness, in order to guide them towards a spiritual communion and material sharing of their resources with children of other Churches, especially those in difficulty. Everyone has something to give and to receive and their motto is: *children helping children*;⁵⁷

b) to contribute towards promotion and development of missionary vocations;

c) to prepare missionary animators who will accompany children in their journey towards a more mature missionary consciousness. This is fulfilled through their direct involvement in ways suitable for each country, so that children become missionaries in their own way. To this end, structures at both local and regional level should be established and suitable activities for such involvement should be created.

Art. 14. The Society, having a profound educational role, must take into account both in its methods of missionary formation and in its appeals to generosity, those pedagogic principles best suited to awaken the missionary awareness of children. Its educational activity must be appropriate to their age, mentality, environment and abilities. Whether using its own means or other existing catechetical structures, the Society should always be integrated into the general pastoral work of Christian education, to which it brings a missionary dimension.

Art. 15. Every year the Society organises a Worldwide Day, on which it brings children's attention to the spiritual and material needs of children throughout the world. Children are encouraged to offer to other children of the world their assistance in terms of prayers, sacrifices and offerings, and are encouraged to discover in them the face of Jesus. Whilst drawing attention to the needs of children who are materially poor, the riches of their spiritual values must not be overlooked. By opening themselves to one another. children will come to know and love each other as brothers and sisters,

and in this way are enriched by mutual giving.

Art. 16. Because the education of children must be carried out through methods suited to them, it is essential that those responsible for the Society, at National and Diocesan level, have the required theological and catechetical competency.

Art. 17. The age of children and adolescents addressed by the Society is established by the National Council, with the consent of the Episcopal Conference and following the guidelines of the Superior Council.

Art. 18. The subscriptions and contributions of children from the various Continents together constitute the Universal Solidarity Fund of Holy Childhood to assist institutions and activities for the benefit of children in the mission territories.

The Pontifical Missionary Union

Art. 19. The Church is «missionary by its nature».⁵⁸ It is the task of the PMU to make this real and operative, especially among persons called by vocation to serve the Church in the ordained ministry, in religious and lay consecration and lay missionaries who are directly involved in the worldwide mission.⁵⁹

Art. 20. The objective of the PMU is to stimulate missionary formation and awareness among priests, members of Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, consecrated laity, candidates to priesthood and religious in life in all its forms, as well as all other persons engaged in the pastoral ministry of the Church. The Union ministers to all those who are called to ensure that the People of God is animated both by a missionary spirit and a generous openness to missionary cooperation. The success of the other Societies depends to a large extent on the vitality of the Pontifical Missionary Union which is «the soul of the other Pontifical Mission Societies».⁶⁰

Art. 21. To promote this missionary formation and awareness, the Union employs suitable methods, as much as by its own means as by appealing to minor and major seminaries, existing institutions and initiatives, that have as their aim the basic and ongoing formation of clergy and religious. The PMU assists them in gaining awareness of their responsibility towards the worldwide mission of the Church. The Union will help them deepen their knowledge of mission and increase their missionary sensitivity. In turn, they will promote in the communities entrusted to them, a missionary consciousness and effective commitment to the worldwide mission within the Church. It will encourage them to find pastoral methods most in keeping with this objective and will strive to stimulate their apostolic commitment. To this end the Union will also facilitate fraternal sharing and witness to solidarity among all the apostolic workers, serving the Church in the various Continents.

Art. 22. It is desirable that a person responsible for the Union with the specific task of spiritual missionary animation be present within each National Office. On the diocesan level, this task may be carried out by the Diocesan Director of the PMS.⁶¹

TITLE II

GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Art. 23. The mandate to proclaim the Gospel throughout the world belongs to the whole Church and all its Pastors.⁶² With regard to the universal Church, this function is entrusted in particular to the Roman Pontiff and to the College of Bishops,⁶³ while for the particular Church, it is the duty of its Bishop, who has within it the responsibility of the ministry of the word.⁶⁴

Art. 24. The Roman Pontiff exercises his authority over the Pontifical Mission Societies through the Congregation for Evangelizing of Peoples, «which directs and coordinates missionary work and missionary cooperation throughout the world. The rights of the Eastern Churches must, however, be safeguarded».⁶⁵

Art. 25. The Congregation «to foster missionary cooperation, even through the effective collection and fair allocation of subsidies, chiefly uses the PMS, namely, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Society of Saint Peter Apostle, and the Society of Holy Childhood, as well as the Pontifical Missionary Union of the Clergy».⁶⁶

Art. 26. The Pontifical Mission Societies depend at a diocesan level on the Bishop. At the national level they also have as a point of reference the Episcopal Conference, in accordance with the law. At the international level they also depend on the Episcopal Bodies both regional and continental, in accordance with the law.⁶⁷ The PMS are promoted by these bodies, always taking in due consideration their pontifical and universal character.⁶⁸

Art. 27. The co-responsibility of Bishops in the government of the PMS assumes various forms, according to their participation in the direction of the Societies at the central national and diocesan level, in accordance with the current Statute.

Art. 28. Though they depend on the CEP and the Bishops, the PMS retain their autonomy and are guided by their own Statute.

Supreme Committee

Art. 29. The Supreme Committee of the PMS «takes all the necessary steps to ensure that each of the Pontifical Mission Societies develops regularly and effectively in its own sphere of action, and resolves the difficulties that may arise between them».⁶⁹

Art. 30. The Supreme Committee is composed of the following members:

- a) the Cardinal Prefect of the CEP, who is its President;
- b) the Secretary of the CEP, who is its Vice-President;
- c) the President of the PMS;
- d) five Bishops, appointed by the CEP, one for each Continent, whose mandate

is *ad quinquennium*;

e) the Secretaries General of the four PMS;
f) five National Directors of the PMS, elected one for each Continent by members of the Superior Council, for a mandate *ad quinquennium* renewable once only.

Art. 31. With the Supreme Committee rests the responsibility:

a) to ensure unity and mutual understanding between the PMS and the CEP;
b) to encourage and offer formulations of general pastoral and economic guidelines, in the light of special needs and in agreement with the Superior Council;
c) to approve the budgets of the PMS and accept the report of the Public Auditor;
d) to approve the Internal Regulations of the PMS;
e) to nominate *ad quinquennium*, following the President's proposal, the Delegate for Administration.

Art. 32. The Supreme Committee assembles once a year. The President can also convene the Committee whenever he considers it necessary.

The Secretary of the Committee nominated by the President *ad quinquennium*, acts as Scribe.

Superior Council

Art. 33. The Superior Council of the PMS governs the activity of the four Societies. Its seat is in Rome alongside the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. The Adjunct Secretary or, in his absence, the Secretary of the Congregation, acts as the President of the Superior Council.

Art. 34. The Superior Council is composed of the following members:

a) the President;
b) the Secretaries General of the four Pontifical Mission Societies;
c) the Under-Secretaries of the Section for Relations with States of the Secretariat of State, of the Congregation for Bishops and of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches;
d) the National Directors of the PMS.

Art. 35. The responsibilities of the Superior Council are:

a) to study the activities and methods of animation and fundraising of the PMS in respective countries, suggesting new initiatives in accordance with pastoral plans of the Episcopal Conferences. Special pastoral sessions will be organised for this purpose;
b) to decide on the fair allocation of funds raised by National Offices, according to a plan for funding of projects, prepared by the Executive Committee (cf. Art. 40 e);
c) to determine priorities to be observed regarding the allocation of funds;
d) to establish norms relating to the allocation of funds, following general guidelines established by the CEP.⁷⁰ A fair- to reach according to their needs- and effective allocation of subsidies, in line with a well-thought-out missionary plan of pastoral action, presupposes precise information and verification of opinions presented by the appropriate Episcopal Conferences and by experts in particular subjects;
e) to examine the budgets, income and expenditure accounts, and balance sheets of each Society, prepared by the Secretaries General, and to deliberate on them;
f) to choose a Public Auditor, who verifies the accounts of the PMS, and to propose the name for the approval by the Cardinal Prefect of the CEP;
g) to resolve possible organisational problems of the PMS;
h) to establish, with the consent of the President, special «*ad hoc* Commissions», which will examine particular issues and present recommendations to the Superior Council;
i) to propose to the Executive Committee useful initiatives for encouraging meetings at international and regional levels organised by National Directors

or by Secretaries General, subject to prior communication with the President, the Prefect of the CEP and the Episcopal Conferences in question (cf. Art. 49);

j) to establish the date and duration of the May General Assembly and if necessary of the November Special Assembly, and indicate topics for discussion;

k) to elaborate and update its own Internal Regulations (cf. Art. 45; 31 d);

l) to prepare and update an operational Handbook;

m) to determine the amount of money which the Secretaries General can retain from the budget of their respective Society to respond to requests for assistance in situations of special emergencies. These funds will have to be allocated according to well-defined projects and will become part of the accountability for the following year.

Art. 36. The universal and communitarian character of the Superior Council is expressed through the presence of the President himself, who represents the CEP, and of the National Directors, who come from their own respective Churches. The common good of the worldwide mission should be their main concern. They must consider themselves first of all operators of a service which favours communion among the Churches.

Assemblies

Art. 37. The Superior Council gathers for its *Ordinary General Assembly* once a year, usually in the month of May, convened, chaired and moderated by the President of the PMS. All the members of the Superior Council have a duty to take part in the Ordinary General Assembly. It has two sections, pastoral and administrative. The first is devoted mainly to the study of missiological, pastoral and organisational topics indicated and approved beforehand by the General Assembly. The second part is reserved for the evaluation of proposals by Secretaries General for allocation of subsidies.

During the first part the presence of experts is allowed, while only members of the Superior Council are allowed to participate in the second part, unless there is a question concerning the activity of the General Secretariat of a particular Society; in such a case the presence of experts, who have studied and presented the projects in question, is also allowed.

The Cardinal Prefect of the CEP has the authority to nominate persons to participate in the second part of the Assembly.

Art. 38. the President of the PMS has the authority, when regarded as necessary by him and in agreement with the President of the Supreme Committee, to convene a *Special Assembly* in November. The date and duration of such an Assembly are determined by the Ordinary General Assembly, as proposed by its President and pending prior communication with the Secretaries General. The Special Assembly is directed by the President of the PMS and attended by the four Secretaries and representatives of National Directors, elected by all the members of the Superior Council according to a quota determined on a continental basis, established by the Superior Council itself

Art. 39. The Cardinal Prefect of the CEP attends the meetings of the two Assemblies, if he so wishes, in the forms and manner he considers opportune.

Executive Committee

Art. 40. Within the Superior Council, there is an Executive Committee, chaired by the President of the PMS and including the four Secretaries General. It convenes at least once every two months, operating in compliance with its Internal Regulations, and has the following tasks:

a) to ensure implementation of the general guidelines given by the Supreme Committee and the Superior Council;

b) to organize all the Assemblies of the PMS and other similar initiatives;

c) to assist the effective organization of the PMS National Offices, in accord with the spirit and norms of the Statute;

d) to examine and respond to urgent requests for assistance within the limits established by the Superior Council;

e) to coordinate the preparation of proposals for allocation of annual subsidies;

f) to evaluate with the Delegate for Administration financial management issues of the PMS in general and each of the four Societies in particular.

The Delegate serves the Executive Committee, to which he is accountable and with which he will verify all issues related to the administration and management of the PMS personnel.

Art. 41. The President of the PMS is the Adjunct Secretary of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, or in his absence, the Secretary of the same Congregation.

The President is nominated by the Supreme Pontiff.

Art. 42. The President has the responsibility:

a) to represent the PMS in their relationship with the CEP;

b) to chair the PMS Assemblies;

- c) to coordinate the work of the four Secretaries General;
- d) to represent the PMS at assemblies and in official meetings;
- e) to assist National Offices, and visit them when necessary;
- f) to attend to the good operation, and an orderly and transparent financial management of the four General Secretariats.

Secretaries General

Art. 43 Each Society has its own International Secretariat, directed by the Secretary General who is nominated *ad quinquennium* by the CEP, pending prior consultation with the members of the Superior Council. The mandate is renewable normally only for one other *quinquennium*.

Art. 44. The Secretary General has the following tasks:

- a) to attend to the effective functioning of the Secretariat;
- b) to collaborate with other Secretaries General, following the guidelines of the President;
- c) to present every year proposals for subsidies, both ordinary and extraordinary, for various projects to be presented to the Superior Council for approval;
- d) to prepare an annual general report for the Superior Council on the activity of the Secretariat, along with a detailed report on the funds received and the subsidies granted.

Art. 45. All structures of the PMS should have their own Internal Regulations approved by the competent authority to both the canonical legislation in force and to the Statute.

Regional and continental meetings

Art. 46 The episcopal character of the PMS requires their deep understanding and collaboration with the dioceses and Episcopal Conferences of various countries.⁷¹

The Church acknowledges the validity and benefits of the meetings of Episcopal Conferences both at regional and continental level.⁷² Therefore the PMS are committed not only «to meet the demands of missionary reality constantly changing and requiring new forms of intervention»,⁷³ but they also coordinate their work of missionary animation and cooperation in the broader context of new supra-national bodies, such as regional and continental Episcopal Conferences.⁷⁴ «The Second Vatican Council has sought to renew the life and activity of the Church in the light of the needs of the contemporary world»⁷⁵ and the various Synods of Bishops, both ordinary and continental, have also adapted to these needs.

Art. 47. In the new world context the communion between Churches «is lived in a mutual way and, concretely, in relation to specific missionary activity. No one must be prevented from carrying out this inter-exchange of ecclesial charity and missionary dynamism. The essential quality of ecclesial communion is in fact its concreteness, so that it involves everyone and reaches the actual person in his or her real-life context. Today too, we should be able to say of Christian communities, committed to the worldwide mission, that they act “with one heart and with one mind” (Acts 4:32) ».⁷⁶

Art. 48. The Superior Council will therefore facilitate contacts and collaboration among National Offices. Some international meetings, on both regional and continental level, will provide those responsible with an opportunity to pool opinions, information and experiences. This will constitute a true source of enrichment for all and will offer each one the opportunity to re-evaluate and renew, if necessary, their own views, programmes and traditional working methods.

Art. 49. Pending prior communications with the President of the PMS and the Prefect of the CEP, regional and continental meetings of the PMS may be organized by the National Directors in question as well as by the Secretary General of each individual Society. The Episcopal Conferences of the region or the Continent where they are held should also be notified of these meetings. One of the National Directors can be elected as continental or regional Coordinator for the duration of three years, with the task of planning the supra-national activity of the PMS.

National and Diocesan Offices

Art. 50. The PMS, given their nature and importance, must be present and operational in each particular Church, both ancient and young. In this way commitment to missionary cooperation will become the missionary consciousness of the Church.⁷⁷

Art. 51. Every nation should have, as a matter of course, one National Director for all the four Societies, if they are present, or for all the four objectives they pursue. In some cases a Director can be responsible for several nations. The National Director is the official representative of the PMS to the local Episcopal Conference.⁷⁸

Art. 52. «The appointment of a National Director falls to the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples preferably after a presentation of a *terna* of candidates by the Bishops' Conference, through the Papal Representative».⁷⁹ The National Director is elected *ad quinquennium*. His mandate is renewable usually only for another *quinquennium*. The new National Director must be nominated, as far as possible, three months before the expiry of the mandate of the sitting National Director.

Art. 53. According to the norms of the Apostolic See and any special directions issued by the Episcopal

Conference,⁸⁰ the National Director has the following responsibilities:

- a) to represent the PMS before national religious and civil authorities;
- b) to promote and direct the PMS within the nation and coordinate their functioning among the different dioceses, in agreement with the Episcopal Conference and according to the spirit of the Statute;
- c) to chair, as a matter of course, the National Council of the PMS;
- d) to encourage within the National Council joint reflection, and to promote animation activities, suggesting initiatives to be carried out, giving general guidelines to be followed and to coordinate various other activities;⁸¹
- e) to present the annual pastoral and financial reports of individual Societies to the National Council and to the Episcopal Conference, through the Episcopal Commission for the Missions, to the CEP, to the President of the Societies, and to the Secretaries General. The financial report must be examined and signed by a Public Auditor as a matter of course.

Art. 54. The National Council of the PMS is composed of:

- a) the National Director;
- b) the National Secretaries of individual Societies;
- c) the Diocesan Directors or, if their number is high, their Delegates.

The National Council can also be composed differently, as long as it is representative, in a balanced way, of members of national ecclesial bodies and Diocesan Delegates.⁸²

Art. 55. The National Council is responsible for:

- a) maintaining a close collaboration with the National Missionary Council established by the Episcopal Conference and chaired by the President of the Episcopal Commission for the Missions,⁸³
- b) determining the topic and studying the strategy for the annual missionary campaign and the programme for the activities of the Societies, for both animation and organization of fund raising;
- c) receiving and examining the annual financial balance sheet submitted by the competent office, including animation and administration expenses of the National and Diocesan Offices, according to the budget.

ART. 56. In each nation the PMS must observe the civil law in force, with regards to both the juridical *status* to be incorporated in their regulations and in all their operations. The National Office, through the Administration Council or other governing group (e.g. Board of Trustees), will ensure that the status of the PMS as a “Non-profit Organization” or “Foundation” or “Registered Charity” is maintained.

Art. 57. The National Council, in agreement with the Episcopal Conference and pending prior information of the Superior Council of the PMS, should draft a Statute or Internal Regulations to organize their work and their specific activity, in harmony with the Statute of the PMS. It should be examined and approved by the Supreme Committee (cf. Art. 45; 31d).

Art. 58. Given the episcopal character of the PMS and their ecclesial service, the National Council must act so as to ensure that its activities are integrated within the overall diocesan and national missionary pastoral plan, so as to bring about unity and harmonious developments. While keeping their own identity, the PMS should not act on the margins of the pastoral life of the dioceses and will avoid forming parallel structures. The PMS should follow the general guidelines of the Episcopal Commission for the Missions.⁸⁴

Assuming the presence of the National Missionary Council, the PMS are represented there, given their aim and the fact in the work of missionary animation «the leading role belongs to the *Pontifical Mission Societies*».⁸⁵

Art. 59. The President of the Episcopal Commission for the Missions or the person delegated by the Episcopal Conference for this area promotes and champions the PMS. «The PMS' role as official instrument of the universal Church must be recognized and assured, coming as it does by constitution in the countries and dioceses».⁸⁶ «It would be helpful if the President of the Episcopal Commission were invited to the annual national PMS meetings. This would enable him to follow their activities more closely at the stages of planning and review».⁸⁷ On the other hand «the National Director should be informed of deliberations and missionary initiatives of the Episcopal Commission. This would help him to carry out his duty in unity of spirit and intent with the directives and chosen options of the Bishops and the local Church. The National Director should be associated with the Episcopal Commission in the most efficient manner possible».⁸⁸

«One concrete form is to appoint the National Director as Secretary of the Episcopal Commission for Missions».⁸⁹

Art. 60. In each diocese, preferably after consultation with the National Director, the Bishop nominates a Diocesan Director of the PMS, ideally a single Director for all the four Societies. It is desirable that the Director be nominated for a five-year mandate; this mandate is renewable. It is also desirable that the Diocesan Director be at the same time the Episcopal Delegate for the Missions.⁹⁰ In case the Ordinary should nominate a different Episcopal Delegate, the latter must offer maximum support to the Diocesan Director in carrying out his task.⁹¹ The Diocesan Director, who should also be a member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, assisted by his co-workers, serves the Bishop to help him give a worldwide missionary openness to the diocesan pastoral life.⁹²

Offerings of the faithful to the PMS

Art. 61. The total offerings collected by the PMS in all the parishes and dioceses of every Rite throughout the world, constitute a *Fund of Solidarity* to establish a programme of universal assistance. Its aim is to provide economic assistance to Churches in the mission territories in their commitment to evangelization, to ecclesial and social development as well as to education and material assistance. It is a sign of unity of faith, of love and justice, which unites in the world all the members of the Church and the particular Churches in the communion of the universal Church, because all the faithful of every Church in every part of the world contribute towards it.

Art. 62. The offerings of the faithful collected by the PMS in the dioceses must be transmitted promptly, in their totality and with regularity to the National Office. These offerings collected for the mission *ad gentes* on *World Mission Day* «in every diocese, parish and institute of the Catholic world»⁹³ or on other special occasions, cannot be used for other purposes.⁹⁴

Art. 63. The distribution of the offerings collected by the PMS is the exclusive prerogative of the General Secretariats. It is their task, in collaboration with the National Directors, to make the subsidies granted during the year available to the person responsible for the projects approved by the Superior Council. Only a percentage of the offerings collected can be retained by the National Offices for animation and administration activity. Such a percentage, as determined by the Superior Council, is also intended to make up for the possible lack of sufficient funds for activities of the National Offices in the most disadvantage countries. In the annual financial reports, the expenses for missionary animation must be recorded separately from those for administration costs.

Art. 64. «Offerings given by the faithful for a specified purpose may be used only for that purpose».⁹⁵ All those who are allocated funds from the PMS, must use them solely and totally for the specific project for which they have been destined and subsequently present a report to the General Secretariats who allocated them.